

MILES HAS LANDED

At Guanica, on the Southwest
Shore of Porto Rico.

SPLENDID LANDING PLACE

No Mines in the Harbor and
No Guns Ashore.

Washington, July 26.—The war department at 11:30 posted the following:

St. Thomas, July 26, 1898, 8:35 p. m.—Secretary of War, Washington.—Circumstances were such that I deemed it advisable to take the harbor of Guanica, first, fifteen miles west of Ponce, which was successfully accomplished between daylight and 11 o'clock. Spanish forces surprised. The Gloucester, Commander Walworth, first entered the harbor; met with slight resistance; fired a few shots. All the transports are now in the harbor and infantry and artillery rapidly going ashore. This is a well protected harbor. The water is sufficiently deep for all transports and heavy vessels to anchor within 200 yards of shore. The Spanish flag was lowered and the American flag raised at 11 o'clock today. Captain Higginson, with his fleet, has rendered aid and earnest assistance. The troops are in good health and best of spirits. No casualties.

(Signed) MILES,
Major General Commanding Army.

SURPRISE AT WASHINGTON

Washington, July 26.—The news of the landing of General Miles at Guanica, on the southwest shore of Porto Rico, came as a genuine surprise to the war department. It had been carefully planned that he was to make his landing at another point, as remote as possible from the place where he actually landed, so there was little wonder that the officials received the first news of the landing with incredulity and even went to the length of supposing that the story had been put off in order to distract attention from the point which had been selected. Just why General Miles made this wide departure from the plans of the department is not known but it is supposed that he has gathered some information since he left El Siboney that induced him to make the change. The result, however, has been to perplex the department officials deeply and to considerably derange their carefully prepared program for the remainder of the expedition. It will now be necessary to intercept the sections of the expedition already at sea, heading for certain selected points on the coast of Porto Rico, and to advise them of the change in the plans.

It is another exhibition of the reliance placed by the government in the dispatches of the Associated Press that is proceeded to act at once in the direction indicated and to take steps to notify the sections ashore, without waiting for news from General Miles himself.

General Wilson's brigade is now approaching the island, being due there today or tomorrow, and reinforcements will follow at intervals of one or two days until the whole force of 30,000 men is landed, unless events connected with the peace negotiations make it expedient to defer further movement. However, it is a matter for congratulation to the war department that General Miles has managed to get over to Porto Rico before the first overtures for peace, and thus to place the island in the same position as Cuba and the Philippines, namely, as territory at least partially in the possession of the United States at the beginning of the negotiations.

STORY OF THE LANDING.

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)
Port of Guanica, Island of Porto Rico, July 26 (C. P. M.), via the Island of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, July 26.—The United States military expedition under the command of Major General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army of the United States, which left Guantanamo bay during the evening of Thursday last, July 24, has landed here successfully today, after a skirmish between a detachment of Spanish troops and a crew of thirty belonging to the launch of the United States auxiliary gun boat Gloucester, formerly Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's steam yacht Corcoran. Four of the Spaniards were killed and no Americans were hurt. The troops were pushed forward promptly in order to capture the railroad leading to Ponce, which is only about ten miles east of this place. From Ponce there is an excellent military road running eighty miles north to San Juan.

The whole of General Brooke's force, with the New Orleans, Annapolis, Cincinnati, Leyden and Wasp, are expected here within twenty-four hours. The ships left Guantanamo bay suddenly on Thursday evening with the Massachusetts, commanded by Captain F. J. Higginson, leading.

Captain Higginson was in charge of the naval expedition, which consisted of the Columbia, Dixie, Gloucester and Yale. General Miles was on board the last named vessel. The troops were on board the transports Nueces, Lampasas, Rita, Comanche, Unicorn, Stillwater, City of

Macon and Specialist. This was the order in which the transports entered the harbor here.

The voyage from Guantanamo bay to this port was uneventful. At noon yesterday General Miles called for a consultation, announcing that he was determined not to go by San Juan cape, but by the Mona passage instead, land here, surprise the Spaniards and deceive their military authorities. The course was then changed and the Dixie was sent to warn General Brooke at Cape Juan.

Port Guanica has been fully described by Lieutenant Whitney of General Miles' staff, who recently made an adventurous tour of Porto Rico.

Ponce, which is situated ten or eleven miles from this port is to the eastward and harder land to take. In addition the water at Ponce is too shallow for the transports to be able to get close in to shore. Then again, Ponce lies at some little distance from where the troops would have been able to land if that point had been selected for the debarkation of the expedition.

One advantage of this place is that it is situated close to the railroad connection with Ponce, which means of transportation our troops hope to secure today.

Early this morning the Gloucester, in charge of Lieutenant Commander Walworth, steamed into Guanica harbor in order to reconnoiter the place. With the fleet waiting outside the gallant little fighting yacht braved the mines which were supposed to be in the harbor and found that there were five fathoms of water close in shore.

Guanica bays a quiet place, surrounded by cultivated lands. In the rear are high mountains and close to the beach lies a village of about twenty houses. The Spaniards were taken completely by surprise. At first they knew of the approach of the army of invasion was in the announcement contained in the firing of a gun from the Gloucester, demanding that the Spaniards haul down their flag, which was floating from a flag staff in front of a black house standing to the east of the village. The first couple of shots were fired into the hills right and left of the bay, purposely avoiding the town, lest the projectiles hurt women or children. The Gloucester then hove to within about 600 yards of the shore and lowered a launch, having on board a Colt rapid-firing gun and thirty men under the command of Lieutenant Huse, which was sent ashore without encountering opposition.

Quartermaster Beck thereupon told Yeoman Lacey to haul down the Spanish flag, which was done, and they then raised on the flag staff the first United States flag to float over Porto Rican soil.

Suddenly about thirty Spaniards opened fire with Mauser rifles on the American flag. Lieutenant Huse and his party responded with great gallantry, the Colt gun doing effective work. Norma, who received Cervera's surrender, and Wood, a volunteer lieutenant, shared the honors with Lieutenant Huse.

Almost immediately after the Spaniards fired on the Americans the Gloucester opened fire on the enemy with all her three and six-pounders which could be brought to bear, shelling the town and also dropping shells into the hills to the west of Guanica, where a number of Spanish cavalry were seen hastening to the spot where the Americans had landed.

Lieutenant Huse then threw up a little fort which he named Fort Walworth.

WHAT GUANICA IS LIKE

Washington, July 26.—Guanica, the point of debarkation of the Porto Rican expeditionary force, is a small town of 1,500 inhabitants on the west coast of the island. On a rough estimate it is less than twenty miles distant from Ponce, and sixty-five miles from San Juan, against which the assault is to be directed. Guanica is about six miles south of Yauco, of which city it forms the port, and with which it is connected by a good road. The town is situated on a bay of the same name, which forms one of the best ports in the whole island. The banks to the right are steep and form a good natural wharf. Three vessels can lie alongside and unload by means of gang planks. Vessels of thirty feet draft can enter the bay easily and proceed close in shore. The conspicuous advantage of this port, aside from its harbor facilities for the transports, is the utter absence of fortifications or mines.

MADRID ADMITS IT.

Madrid, July 26 (C. P. M.).—Premier Sagasta, when questioned on the subject today, admitted that an American force had landed at a defenseless point on the island of Porto Rico, but no dispatch to that effect was given out for publication in the newspapers.

COLUMBIA AT ST. THOMAS.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., July 26 (Evening).—The United States cruiser Columbia has just arrived here from Puerto de Guanica, Porto Rico, via San Juan.

While the latter point she spoke the United States monitor Terror and the gunboat Annapolis and Wasp, giving them orders to join the fleet at Puerto de Guanica immediately.

Ponce will not be bombarded until the rest of the warships arrive.

At the request of Major General Miles, the Associated Press dispatch boat Cynthia II will take to General Miles, Mr. P. C. Hanna, former United States consul at San Juan de Porto Rico, will also be a passenger by the dispatch boat.

WAITING FOR NEWS.

Washington, July 26.—The government was waiting today to receive confirmation of the reported debarkation of General Miles' troops. The war department did not expect to hear of General Miles' landing near Ponce, as mentioned in newspaper dispatches, but it was admitted that General Miles was master of his own movements and it was entirely conceivable that he had acquired information since the original plans were formed for the campaign against Porto Rico, that had led him to modify them at the moment when they were to be put into execution. While the distance from Ponce to San Juan is much greater than from the point originally selected for Miles' landing, there is, according to the military information charts, a splendid direct macadamized road leading directly across the island to San Juan on the north shore. Such a road as this, if it is properly described in the archives of the war department, would be very little affected by the torrential rains of this season, so that it might be possible for our troops, accompanied as they will be by road artillery, to march across the severe mountains between Ponce and San Juan in less time than would have been required to cover the much shorter distance between the capital and some of the other points that had been named as the landing places for the troops. Whether the landing might have been made, the war department expected to hear from General Miles very soon, for he had been long enough on the coast of Porto Rico to have established himself somewhere ashore and to have forwarded some communication to the government.

It was said that there would be no difficulty in the prompt transmission of any dispatches the general might file over the cable from St. Thomas. It was probable that in the beginning the government at Madrid would be in advance with the news, but this was because there was a cable running from Ponce around through a greater part of the West Indies. Thus the conditions at Ponce, so far as cable connections are concerned, approximated those existing at Santiago at the beginning of the campaign, when the Spanish government was able to communicate directly with the Spanish general in the town, while General Shafter's communications were subject to a delay of twenty-four hours. However, all this will be rectified in the course of a few days and General Miles will be in quick communication with Washington.

ORDERS TO TAMPA

Washington, July 26.—Orders were today for the Fifth and Sixth Ohio regiments at Tampa, Fla., to prepare for service in Porto Rico. Arrangements will be made as soon as possible for their transportation. These troops were in the original list for service in the Porto Rican campaign, but were crowded out by troops from southern states which claimed priority of transport.

Fernandina, Fla. July 26.—The Third Ohio regiment and the Second division hospital corps arrived today from Tampa. The First Florida is holding itself in readiness for embarkation.

AT CHICKAMAUGA

Chickamauga, July 26.—The Third brigade, First division, First corps left Camp Thomas this afternoon for Newport News. This brigade is commanded by Brigadier General Grant and is composed of the first Kentucky, Third Kentucky and Fifth Illinois. The brigade will be accompanied by the Third battalion of the Sixteenth Pennsylvania, which arrived after the departure of the regiment for Porto Rico. The four commands marched five miles to Rossville and there loaded. The route to Newport News will be over the Queen & Crescent and Chesapeake & Ohio via Lexington, Ky., and Richmond, Va.

With the exception of the regiments which go out tomorrow, all commands were today busy packing. All commands were today hard at work drilling. The weather is cool and pleasant and it is being fully taken advantage of.

Major Shunk, chief engineer of the Second division, first corps, is now lecturing the commissioned and non-commissioned officers on the hasty construction of field fortifications. The field officers are deeply interested in this important feature of the service and are gaining many valuable points from Major Shunk's clear and forcible talks.

Major Nye, commissary of subsistence of the local military supply depot, has shipped 80 cars of provisions to the park during the last 40 hours. Nineteen cars of provisions arrived from Columbia, Tenn., today.

An enormous quantity of letter mail is now being handled at the Chickamauga postal station of the Chickamauga post office. All of the soldiers mail goes to this office and all civilian mail is sent to the Lytle, Ga., regular postoffice.

At the postoffice of the station, over 100,000 letters are handled each day. This includes both the incoming and outgoing mail, requiring a force of 15 clerks to distribute and take up the mail. In addition to these letters, an average of 25,000 mail packages, including papers, boxes, etc., are handled each day. This makes over 500,000 pieces of mail every 24 hours. The mail is now being received and despatched without delay and much credit is due the postal authorities.

Dr. C. M. Drake, former chief surgeon of the Southern Railway, has been transferred from the Third corps to the First division. The field officers are deeply interested in this important feature of the service and are gaining many valuable points from Major Shunk's clear and forcible talks.

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City, to fill a vacancy in the Fifth Missouri volunteers.

AT THE CABINET MEETING

Washington, July 26.—The session of the cabinet today was practically without incident. There were no important dispatches and what business was done was of minor character.

While without official advice of the landing of the Miles' expedition, there was some discussion of the press reports. It was believed that the landing at a point on the south coast of Porto Rico, near Ponce, if made at all, was designated as a feint. The discussion, it was understood, brought out the fact that General Miles had considered the choice of three landing points for his forces, not only the south coast, but also the north coast. Miles and was much disappointed that no word had come from him as to his landing, reports of which had been transmitted to him through the Associated Press. Secretary Long also was keenly expectant of advice from that quarter.

Referring to the expedition of Commodore Watson to the Spanish coast, Secretary Long said there was nothing new with regard to that project.

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